

A few are grown as standards, the branches proceeding from the central stem at a height of six feet and spreading out horizontally.

(10.) Picking.—The picking is done when the fruit is full grown, and shows a slight yellowing of the stalk. Early in the morning is preferred, because if protected from the sun, fruit so picked retains a delicious coolness. For local use each fig is wrapped up in a leaf when it has attained this stage, to protect it from birds, and is left on the tree a week longer. This improves the quality greatly, but carriage to a distance is impracticable in such a case. No boxing or curing is done in India.

(11.) The trees are planted 10—12 feet apart.

(12.) By cuttings of 1 year old wood planted in a shady bed in February.

(13.) Orchards are about 2—3 acres in extent only, because the situation on a hill slope does not admit of large level spaces fit for irrigation.

(14.) Trees attain 15 years; are fruitful about 12.

(15.) Red spider is a serious enemy. No futile attempts are made against it by the cultivators; they think sacrifices to idols effectual.

(16.) I have never sent cuttings of figs so far as to America, but I think that if cut in February, packed in moist sand in a tin-box, and sent by post, a few would survive the journey.

(17.) Government of India does not issue such matter regarding fruit. The latest edition of my book, "Gardening in India", gives the fullest account available, but it is not as full regarding figs as this report.

G. M. WOODROW.

Poona, 1890.

## VI.—DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN CROCODILES.

IN the latest volume of the *Fauna of British India*, that on the Reptilia and Batrachia, Mr. Boulenger mentions that *Crocodilus porosus* has not been recorded from the West Coast. I can now say that it does undoubtedly occur in North Travancore. I was first led to take up the question of the distribution of the two species by my friend "Smoothbore" of Madras, and on examining the skulls in the Trevandrum Museum, I found one that appeared to me to be a specimen of *Crocodilus porosus*; it had been presented on the 3rd November, 1857 by the then Resident, General Cullen, who sent the following note with it:—

"The animal was killed several years ago in the backwater between Alleppy and Cochin, at a place called Tunneermookum. It had killed several natives, and on the last occasion seized a woman, far advanced in pregnancy, as she was washing; she died of the injuries she received, and the husband and others, vowing vengeance against the brute, at last caught and killed it. They brought it with another one and left it for me at Cochin. It was about 10 feet long. I have records, however, of crocodiles up the river at Cochin near Verapoly of 18 to 22 feet in length. I will look for the reports and send them to you."

Not satisfied with my own identification, I took the skull with me to Madras and showed it to Dr. Thurston, the Superintendent of the Madras Museum, who agreed with me that it was undoubtedly a skull of *Crocodilus porosus*. My only doubt then was whether the specimen might not have been mixed up with others in General Cullen's possession, and have been sent to the Museum with notes that applied to another skull. To clear up this, the only way was to get another specimen from the same locality. The natives here are agreed that there are two sorts of crocodile, one they call "Chingany," the other "Muthala," and after trying in vain to get any satisfactory description of the difference between them, I offered a reward for specimens of the "Muthala."

Specimen after specimen of *palustris* was sent in to me, and some were identified by the natives as undoubted "Muthalas," and still they failed to show any difference or to explain why they gave different names. At last, from the same locality as General Cullen's specimen, came an undoubted *Crocodilus porosus*, about 7 ft. 6 inches long; it is now in the Museum, and the curious thing is that the natives can see no difference between it and a specimen of "*palustris*," and do not admit that it is a "Muthala."

H. S. FERGUSON.

Trevandrum, March, 1891.

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#### VII.—VICTORIA CROWN PIGEONS BREEDING IN CONFINEMENT.

*Victoria Crowned Pigeons* (*Coura Victoriae*).—In 1888, three specimens, a male and two females, were received in the Trevandrum Zoological Gardens from Calcutta. This year the females began to fight and had to be parted. The pair left began to build a nest, and being supplied with sticks and fibre made a flat arrangement on a platform there was in the cage, about 8 ft. from the ground. One egg was laid, and in about three weeks a young one was hatched, and is now just fledged and goes about with its parents. I should think it is unusual for these birds to breed in captivity, and so record it.

Continuing the subject of breeding, I may mention that the Mouse Deer (*Memina indica*) have bred in the gardens, and the period of gestation is, as near as possible, five months.

H. S. FERGUSON.

Trevandrum, March 1891.

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#### VIII.—INDIAN OTTERS.

In the first volume of the "*Fauna of British India*," Mr. Blandford says that, "owing to the circumstance that the next species, *L. Elliotti*, has only lately been clearly distinguished, the relative distribution of the two (*L. vulgaris* and *L. Elliotti*) cannot be precisely ascertained." Both occur in Travancore, but *L. vulgaris* is by far the commoner and is fairly abundant. There was at one time a specimen of *L. vulgaris* and two of *L. Elliotti* in the gardens at the same time, both species having been captured close to Trevandrum; the differ-